

Appl. No. 09/763,845

Revision to Appeal Brief in Response
to Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 10 December 2008

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application : 09/763,845
 Applicant(s) : HERRMANN, Christoph
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By:

Title: WIRELESS NETWORK FOR REQUESTING A CONTENTION CHANNEL

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 Commissioner for Patents
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDED BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR 41.37 and MPEP 1205.03

Sir:

In response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 10 December 2008, a revised Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter is submitted herein.

In response to the Examiner's comment that the arrows of FIG. 5 appear to be reversed, the applicant respectfully notes that the arrows point appropriately from the antenna 32 of the receiver to the channel access control block 38.

Respectfully submitted

 Robert M. McDermott, Esq.
 Registration Number 41,508
 804-493-0707
 for Kevin C. Ecker, Esq.
 Registration Number 43,600

Please direct all correspondence to:
 Philips Intellectual Property and Standards
 P.O. Box 3001
 Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001
 914-332-0222

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V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

This invention addresses the management of communications in a wireless network comprising a base station and a plurality of terminals. In an example embodiment, contention channels are not continuously available, but can be made available based on a request by at least one of the terminals (Applicant's specification, page 2, lines 14-19). When the base station receives the request, the base station allocates a channel to be a contention channel (RACH, page 1, lines 10-13), and notifies all of the terminals that this contention channel is now available (page 6, lines 20-22). In an example embodiment, the base station may set a duration of time that the contention channel is available for use (page 8, lines 14-15). While the contention channel is available for use, any terminal may communicate with any other terminal, as well as the base station (page 7, lines 2-4).

As claimed in independent claim 14, an embodiment of the invention comprises a wireless network (FIG. 1) that includes:

a base station (1) in communication with a plurality of terminals (4-7);
at least one terminal of the plurality of terminals operable to be assigned to a radio cell of the base station for exchanging user data and control data (page 4, lines 14-15), the terminal being further operable to transmit a first signaling sequence as an indication to use one of a plurality of contention channels (page 5, lines 25-29);
wherein the base station, upon receiving the first signaling sequence, is operable to broadcast a provision message indicating a channel that is available to the plurality of terminals for contention-based access (page 6, lines 20-22, page 1, lines 10-13).

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As claimed in independent claim 24, an embodiment of the invention comprises a base station (1) in a wireless network (FIG. 1) for exchanging user data and control data with a plurality of terminals (4-7) operable to be assigned a radio cell (page 4, lines 14-15), the base station comprising:

a receiver (FIG. 3) operable to detect a signaling sequence from at least one of the terminals (page 8, line 32 – page 9, line 2); and

a transmitter (FIG. 4) operable to transmit a provision message in response to the signaling sequence, the provision message indicating a channel that is available to the plurality of terminals for contention-based access (page 6, lines 20-25, page 1, lines 10-13).

As claimed in independent claim 26, an embodiment of the invention comprises a terminal (4-7) operable to be assigned a radio cell in a wireless network (FIG. 1) for exchanging user data and control data with a base station (page 4, lines 14-15), the terminal comprising:

a transmitter (FIG. 6) operable to transmit a first signaling sequence to the base station, the signaling sequence being indicative of a request for a channel to be made available for contention-based access by the transmitter (page 5, lines 25-30); and

a receiver (FIG. 5) operable to receive a provision message from the base station subsequent to the transmission of the first signaling sequence by the transmitter, the provision message indicating the channel that is available to the terminal for contention-based access (page 6, line 26 – page 7, line 4, page 1, lines 10-13).

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As claimed in independent claim 33, an embodiment of the invention comprises a method of exchanging user data and control data in a wireless network (FIG. 1) between a base station (1) and a terminal (4-7) operable to be assigned a radio cell, the method comprising:

transmitting a signaling sequence from the terminal to the base station, the signaling sequence being indicative of a request by the terminal to use a channel for contention-based access (page 5, lines 25-29);

detecting the signaling sequence by the base station (page 6, line 20); and

broadcasting a provision message by the base station to the terminal in response to the request, the provision message indicating the channel that is available to the terminal for contention-based access (page 6, lines 20-25, page 1, lines 10-13).

As claimed in dependent claim 20, an embodiment of the invention comprises the wireless network of claim 14, wherein the terminal is further operable to re-transmit the first signaling sequence to the base station with increased energy in response to a failure to receive an acknowledgement of the reception of the first signaling sequence by the base station within a predefined period of time after the first transmission of the first signaling sequence to the base station (page 3, lines 3-5; page 7, lines 15-17, page 8, lines 16-19, and page 12, lines 21-24).